

**Remote Winooski City Council Meeting**  
**Monday, January 4, 2021 at 6 PM**

- Attend online: <https://zoom.us/j/97975939386>
- Attend by phone: 1 646 558 8656
- Webinar ID: 979 7593 9386
- Watch live or recorded via Town Meeting TV
- View our Remote Meeting Procedures and Public Comment Request Form at [winooski.vt.gov](http://winooski.vt.gov) or call 802 655 6410

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Agenda Review**
- IV. Public Comment**
- V. Consent Agenda**
  - a. Approval: City Council Minutes of 12/14/20
  - b. Approval: Accounts Payable Warrant as of 12/30/20, Payroll Warrants ending 12/12/20 & 12/26/20, Warrant Subsequent to Payout 01/04/20
- VI. Council Reports**
- VII. City Updates**
- VIII. Regular Items**
  - a. Introduction: Yuol Herjok, Youth Interventionist – R Coffey
  - b. Discussion: Commissions Review of Master Plan Goals– K Lott
  - c. Discussion: FY22 Budget: Community Services Presentation – R Coffey
  - d. Approval: Vermont Community Development Program Municipal Policies and Codes – H Carrington
- IX. Adjourn**

Mayor Kristine Lott - [klott@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:klott@winooski.vt.gov)  
Councilor Hal Colston - [hcolston@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:hcolston@winooski.vt.gov)  
Councilor Jim Duncan - [jduncan@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:jduncan@winooski.vt.gov)  
Councilor Amy Lafayette - [alafayette@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:alafayette@winooski.vt.gov)  
Councilor Mike Myers - [mmyers@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:mmyers@winooski.vt.gov)  
Jessie Baker, City Manager - [jbaker@winooski.vt.gov](mailto:jbaker@winooski.vt.gov)



## **MINUTES**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Councilor Colston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Members Present:**

Mayor Kristine Lott

Councilors: Mike Myers, Hal Colston and Jim Duncan

Councilor Lafayette was absent

### **Officers Present:**

Jessie Baker, City Manager; Angel Lane, Assistant City Clerk; Angela Aldieri, Finance Director; Heather Carrington, Economic Development Officer, Paul Sarne, Communications Coordinator; Eric Vorwald, Planning & Zoning Manager; Ray Coffey, Community Services Director; John Audy, Fire Chief

### **Others Present:**

Bryn Oakleaf, Jenny Hill, Kate Nicolette, Steven Berbeco, Winooski Library, Winooski Mutual Aid, Yuol Herjok, Molly Schneider, Kate Anderson, Barb Pitfido

## **III. Agenda Review – None**

## **IV. Public Comment – None**

## **V. Consent Agenda**

**Motion** by Councilor Myers second by Councilor Colston to approve the City Council Minutes of 12/14/20, Accounts Payable Warrant as of 12/30/20 and Payroll Warrants ending 12/12/20 & 12/26/20 and Warrant Subsequent to Payout 01/04/20 as presented. Voted and passed 3-0.

## **V. Council Reports**

**Councilor Duncan** – Attended the Housing Commission meeting. Time was spent identifying potential targets regarding the size of housing units i.e., # of bedrooms vs. the actual number of affordable housing units. The Commission feels that this may merit intervention in the future. There were also concerns expressed with the quality of housing available.

**Councilor Colston** – Informed us that he is back to the Legislature on Wednesday. If the public has any ideas/desires for bills to be presented. The Councilor would welcome hearing from you and what your ideas might be.



**Councilor Myers** – Wished everyone a very Happy New Year. Reminded everyone that it is only 5 months from now that the Myers Memorial Pool will be opening! Very exciting.

**Mayor Lott** – The Covid-19 weekly meetings with the Vermont Department of Health and other partners continue to take place. The Mayor reminded residents to follow the guidance as it is still very important as we have seen an escalation recently. Winooski School District hosted community forum with a Security and Safety Presentation. The presentation is available online via the WSD website. The Mayor encourages anyone interested to take the time to view it. Very informative presentation. There will be follow-up meetings.

## **VII. City Update – Jessie Baker**

- COVID Update
  - Over the last three weeks we have seen significant case growth in Winooski
    - Between 12/10 and 12/30 we went from 159 cases total to 361 cases (an increase of 127%)
    - 53 of those cases are associated with Our Lady of Providence (both residents and staff)
    - Sadly, we've lost 4 neighbors and our thoughts go out to their families.
    - The remaining positives were in about 79 households.
    - During the same period, over 900 Winooski residents were tested at public testing sites.
  - What we are doing:
  - Testing daily for the foreseeable future and at least through January.
    - At the OCC
    - 5 to 8 on Mondays. 9 to 3 all other days including Saturday and Sunday.
    - Daily – can sign up at the VDH website or walk in. All information is on our webpage
    - All materials are translated and there will be translators on site.
  - Since 12/15 we have held daily "huddles" (minus Christmas Day and New Year's Day) with staff from VDH, City, School, CHCB, UVMHC, and community partners to coordinate efforts and ensure that our neighbors basic needs are met.
  - Chief Audy has also been working closely with OLP as they coordinate staffing, support, and PPE with the State of Vermont.
  - The most important thing you can do is:
    - Not spend time with anyone outside of your immediate household
    - Wear a mask when in the presence of others
    - Socially distance
    - Wash your hands



- This morning called to 25 Winooski Falls Way for "several" alarm activations.
  - The source was a sprinkler head break on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor.
  - Approximately 12 of the 80 units were damaged, mechanical rooms and systems (electrical, fire alarm, etc.) also sustained moderate damages. One elevator also has sustained damage. One commercial space (Asian Bistro) has been closed and will likely reopen in the next 24-48 hours.
  - Displaced residents (6-8) were going to be relocated by Redstone, it appeared that this could happen onsite because only 60% of the units were occupied.
  - In the coming days staff will work closely with Redstone and the residents to assure needs and permitting requirements are addressed.
- On 12/21 and 12/29, the Chief, School Resource Officer and I participated in the School sponsored Safety & Security Community Forum. You can view the recordings of these meetings at [www.wsdvt.org](http://www.wsdvt.org). The School Trustees will discuss this week their plans for additional public meetings as they think about the future of safety and security at the School. We will continue to be engaged as invited.
- Working Communities Challenge Grant
  - Equity Director posting is up
  - Meeting with funders next week to discuss year 1 workplan
  - We did not receive the Vermont Community Foundation grant (\$108k) so we are thinking about ways to fill this revenue hole. The School Trustees are also considering making the Liaisons full time in the FY22 School budget.

## **VIII. Regular Items**

### **a. Introduction: Yuol Herjok, Youth Interventionist – R Coffey**

Ray Coffey, Community Services Director introduce Yuol to the Council. Yuol shared that he was previously doing this type of work with the City of Burlington and is looking forward to working in Winooski with the new American population. He is very excited to be part of this team. The Mayor and Council warmly welcomed Yuol.

### **b. Discussion: Commissions Review of Master Plan Goals – K Lott**

A memo was presented for review of Council. Councilor Duncan stated that these were good steps. He recognized that this is work but good work and very worth doing and is supportive of



following this plan. Councilor Myers expressed his concern that often there is barely enough time at a Commission meeting to complete the agenda items. He is concerned about adding time to an already stretched timeframe. The Mayor stated that there will be equity training/building in March once the budget process is completed. The Mayor asked for input on how to best share the memo with Commission Chairs. It was further discussed and a plan to have staff liaisons add the memo to the next agenda for each commission and then the Council liaisons with discuss. This discussion may take place in a written format if desired. This may save time at the various meetings. Mayor Lott has 3 commission meetings this month and will share her feedback from these meetings on how presenting the material to the various commissions worked. The City Manager expressed her appreciation to Mayor Lott and Council for their effort and work in getting this process moving and taking such an active role.

**c. Discussion: FY22 Budget: Community Services Presentation – R Coffey**

Ray Coffey, Community Services Director went through his FY22 Budget presentation and took questions as he went through each section of the budget. Mr. Coffey gave kudos out to his team. He is very appreciative of the work that they do every day. Mr. Coffey mentioned what a difficult year it has been due to Covid-19. It has been challenging to be sure. But Mr. Coffey thanks his staff for flexing and continuing to do the work to the best level possible. More discussion ensued. Councilor Colston believes that these programs are an investment into our community. Mayor Lott stressed her support of these programs as it is so important to our community. While discussing Thrive, Mayor Lott stated that she is committed to seeing this through for a while longer. Councilor Duncan expressed his concern that moving forward with Thrive in particular will require the State as a partner in the future to continue to provide this critical service. Councilor Colston stated his faith in Mr. Coffey as a strong manager. He complimented his ability to pull back when the circumstances dictated. More Q & A's and discussion continued. The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Coffey for his presentation and continued diligence.

**d. Approval: Vermont Community Development Program Municipal Policies and Codes – H Carrington**

Ms. Carrington explained the need to adopt the VCDP Municipal Policies and Codes in order to accept the \$450,000.00 VCDP grant in support of the Abenaki Garage construction at 17 Abenaki Way. Some questions and discussion ensued.

**Motion** by Councilor Duncan second by Councilor Colston to adopt VCDP Municipal Policies and Codes as presented. Voted and passed 3-0.

**X. Adjourn**



**Motion** by Councilor Myers second by Councilor Duncan to adjourn at 7:36 p.m.  
Voted and passed 3-0.

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Angel Lane, Assistant City Clerk**

